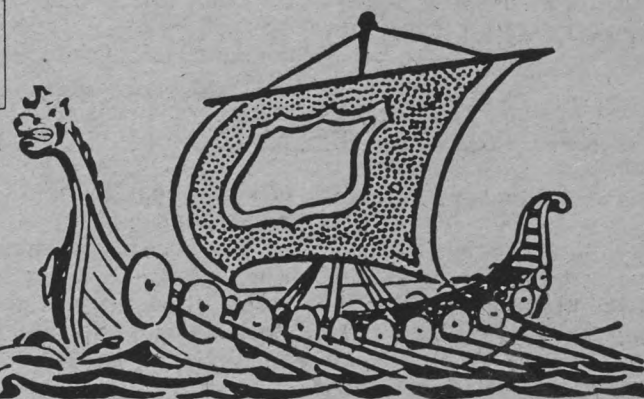


Scandinavian Centre News



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Edmonton, Alberta, May 1976

CENTRE FUTURE OPTIMISTIC

THANK YOU

to all those shareholders of the Centre and Lodge members who have sent in donations to help with the cost of this newspaper. As you will know from the financial statement in the February paper, it cost us just about \$6,000 more than we took in to publish the paper last year, and this year we expect costs to be higher yet. **WE APPEAL** to all our fellow members in the Centre who have not yet done so to make a donation, no matter how small, to help with the cost of the **News**; we shall greatly appreciate any assistance you can give.

Your Board of Directors ☐

SYTTENDE MAI PARADE

Sons of Norway will be celebrating **Syttende Mai** (Norway's Independence Day) on May 17 with a parade from Jasper Ave. and 106 St. to City Hall. His Worship, Mayor Cavanagh, will read the proclamation and the Norwegian flag will fly for the remainder of the day. Come join in the parade. There will be flags, floats, music and, of course, the beautiful Norwegian costumes. Assembly time is 9:30 a.m. at 106 St. and Jasper Ave. on the Monday morning, May 17th. ☐

wear and tear resulting from use of the Centre by the Viking Disco. In order for the Disco to pay for the cost of clean-up, damage to furniture, etc., an increase of approximately 50% in attendance would be required.

During the past year of Disco operation there have also been a number of incidents or problem situations which indicate the need for continued adult supervision. Neither the manager nor the director in charge can be expected to be in attendance every week at Disco dances.

The solution seems to be obvious—the Disco needs support of the parents, Scandinavian or otherwise. Or perhaps, like they say, if you aren't part of the solution you may be part of the problem. Many Scandinavian children, even the children of active club members, grow to adulthood with little or no exposure or involvement in Scandinavian activities.

If more Scandinavian parents allowed their children to go out to a Disco dance on a Wednesday night or, better still, gave them and their friends a ride there and back, perhaps volunteering their own time as chaperones occasionally, we could have a strong, healthy club.

The choice is yours. ☐

SPLINTERS from the BOARD

By Elmer Kankkunen

1976 promises to be a historic year for the Scandinavian Centre. Several, rather bold, major changes are in store for the shareholders and ethnic groups and Centre expansion is, of course, first on the list. Preliminary plans and application forms for an Alberta Government grant have been re-submitted and now it's a waiting game again. If grant applications are approved within a reasonably short time, span directors in charge of Centre development are optimistic that the first sod may be turned as early as next fall.

The committee studying the feasibility of setting up our own food services has recommended in favour of initiating a Centre operated food service as of September 1976. Final decision on some aspects of the report, such as equipment acquisition, were deferred to the May meeting.

In line with our present policy of closer scrutinizing, etc., Centre Manager Peter Elander must have felt like he was in front of a firing squad as board members kept shooting questions at him. He managed to survive the barrage and came through in good shape.

Discussion on methods of increasing revenue for the **Scandinavian Centre News** was hampered by the absence of the director responsible. Despite Stan's absence, the board decided as a first measure to increase the advertising rates effective July 1, 1976. A committee was formed to study ways and means of increasing revenue. Donations by individuals and Scandinavian ethnic groups have been a great help. In this regard, the Danes recently made a donation of \$100, and the Icelanders, \$50 and challenge other ethnic groups to match them.

The Viking Disco was also discussed at some length. It is obvious that this group needs the support of more Scandinavian parents. (Additional details included in separate article elsewhere in this paper.) ☐

Sons of Norway Appointment

Ross Anderson of Camrose, Alberta, has been appointed by Sons of Norway, a fraternal benefit society, as Area Manager for the province. His duties will include supervision of membership and insurance sales throughout the province and the organization of new

lodges. His appointment is effective immediately.

Mr. Anderson has been active with the Society for a number of years serving in various capacities on both a local and province-wide

Continued on Page 12
APPOINTMENT

VIKING DISCO ANNIVERSARY

By Elmer Kankkunen
Viking Disco Director

The Viking Disco will celebrate its first birthday in May 1976. Heikki Sario, who has since departed from the scene, has been credited or blamed for fathering this child. This child hasn't lacked attention or care because, since birth, it has been nursed to its present state of development with tender loving care by Peter Nielsen, Peter Elander, Karin Nasset, Inge Nielsen and others. Perhaps it is time this child started standing on its own two feet.

To get this infant club in motion a year or so ago, all young people, regardless of race, creed or colour, were encouraged to join. It was realized that most Scandinavian teenagers had many friends other than Scandinavians and wouldn't be interested in joining if their friends weren't also welcome. As a result of this open-door policy, Disco club members of Scandinavian descent are now actually in the minority. Because the Centre is not readily accessible by bus, most of the 50 or 60 regulars seem to originate from the proximity of the Centre. Disco dances are held on Wednesday nights which is unfortunate because many

parents are reluctant to allow their children out on a week night. The manager has no alternative because weekend nights are booked solid and Centre operations are dependent on the revenue from those nights.

I have listed these facts not because I am concerned with the racial origins of present Disco club members, etc., but merely to focus on an area of potential growth, and growth is needed if this club is to survive.

The Viking Disco has till now been allowed to use the Centre facilities, usually the Nordic Room, free of charge. The manager has pointed out that there are additional clean-up costs and a considerable increase in

FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

By P  ter Elander

A nice problem to have! The Centre was used 32 times at no costs by the Scandinavian ethnic societies. I, for one, am most happy that the Centre finally is used the way it should be used.

But I would like to have a little more co-operation, PLEASE! It does take time to wash ashtrays, glasses and cups when the Centre is used. Over one month, it gets to be hours or even days. If it takes a half hour each time, we are

talking about 16 hours. So, please, clean up!

But even more important! For your "sake", please, call before the Centre is needed. Book ahead. To avoid disappointment, please do this. Remember it is possible the Centre is rented out.

I would also like to know when the Centre is used and by whom. If I can help in some way, feel free to call me. But please help me to keep the cost down. Yes, it is a nice problem to have. Let us make the problem bigger. Use the Centre even more. □

VIKING TOASTMASTER CLUB

BETTER LISTENING, THINKING AND SPEAKING COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP THE VIKING TOASTMASTER CLUB #3650

By Peter Elander

TOASTMASTER INTERNATIONAL has just informed the VIKING TOASTMASTER CLUB that Charter #3650 has been granted.

This calls for a party. So on:

Friday, May 21st, 1976, is the Charter Night for the Viking Toastmasters.

A special menu of "Scandinavian Delight" has been set up.

It all starts at 7:00 p.m. Costs \$7.00 per person and all interested people are most welcome.

Several high officials from Toastmaster District 42 will be in attendance.

Tickets are for sale at the following numbers: 484-5384 and 455-4355.

The Viking Toastmaster Club meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. sharp here at the Scandinavian Centre. Come and get the "feel" of what Toastmasters can do for you. 75% of the members are of Scandinavian descent.

Over one million men and women have been members of Toastmasters over the years. They have all taken part in the Communication and Leadership

Program Toastmaster International offers.

Now: WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

Every day you and I have to sell something—it may be a product, something we believe in, a cause, religion, the Scandinavian Centre, or maybe we are selling ourselves. But I am sure we can do better. It is here that Toastmasters comes in, people helping each other to better improve themselves.

Toastmasters are open to membership by anyone 18 years and older, men and women, without regard to race, creed, color, religion or national origin. IT IS A NO-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.

People helping each other, to help other people—that is Toastmasters. Better listening, thinking and speaking—that is Toastmasters. "Building" for better understanding—that is Toastmasters. A program of youth leadership—that is Toastmasters. Fellowship—that is Toastmasters.

TOASTMASTER CLUB VIKING #3650 "STANDS" FOR A BETTER SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE, THROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND LEADERSHIP.

THE QUESTION NOW IS: DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THIS???

The door is open. □

VIKING DISCO

THE VIKING DISCO

By Valerie Barabash

Recently the Viking Disco elected a new executive. It is as follows:

SOCIAL CONVENER Tom Jacobsen

PRESIDENT

Terry Onufrichuk

VICE-PRESIDENT

Blair Onufrichuk

SECRETARY

Valerie Barabash

BOOKKEEPER

Norm Symington

MEMBERSHIP

Barb Edwards

ADVERTISING

Cheryl Jacobson

Dave Soft

This group caters primarily to young people. Our Disco is held every Wednesday from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. We have a Disco Jockey, Doug Maitland, who plays our music. We usually have a very good turnout. The Disco is run by a very competent group of you people. Anyone wishing to attend our Disco is cordially welcome. □

THE VIKING "CRY" NEWSLETTER FOR CLUB VIKING DEAD OR ALIVE

The Club Viking board of directors are pleased to let you know. The "BABY" club Viking is very much alive. They do admit, there have been and still are, some "growing pains".

The directors are of the opinion, it is a must to be ready. We must have things in order—we must have good planning and ideas. Bookings for functions have been made at the Scandinavian Centre. It was here one of the problems did come up. The Centre has very few openings.

However, we went ahead and booked the "Valhalla Room" (Nordic Room) for a Fellowship Night.

Date: May 7th, 1976

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$4.00 per person

Only 100 tickets will be sold

Menu: Norwegian Style—

Good for Vikings and their

Friends

Prepared by the Slave Girls,

Astrid Hope and Lillian

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

Valborg VERSTRAETE, Hay River — \$5.00

Mrs. Signe L. JOHNSON, Edmonton — \$5.00

Mrs. C. T. PURVIS, Victoria, B.C. — \$5.00

Oscar and Hilda HANSON, Edmonton — \$3.00

Arne WELLING, Edmonton — \$5.00

Holger JACOBSEN, Edmonton — \$5.00

A. OGREN, Edmonton — \$5.00

Mrs. Anna SUND, Edmonton — \$5.00

Eric OLSSON, Edmonton — \$3.00

Bill BOYER, Edmonton — \$5.00

Dan and Gudrun CHRISTIANSEN, Kamloops, B.C. — \$5.00

Eino and Jennie TIKKANEN, Rich Lake — \$5.00

Neils PETERSEN, Edmonton — \$5.00

Grethe PEDERSEN, Edmonton — \$5.00

Clara FREY, Edmonton — \$2.00

Fred OLESEN, Edmonton — \$2.00

Carlo SCHWARTZ, Edmonton — \$5.00

ANONYMOUS, Edmonton — \$5.00

Colin SKORI, Edmonton — \$10.00

Dagmar J. MADSEN, Edmonton — \$5.00

Mrs. Eric HOLMBERG, Holmberg's Ladies' and Children's Wear, Barrhead — \$5.00

Hjalmar M. KAMPEN, Winnipeg, Man. — \$5.00

SCANDINAVIAN SOCIETIES AND CLUBS IN EDMONTON

DANIA — Peter Andersen, President, 4 Swallow Cr., St. Albert 458-2788

FINNISH — Pentti Sipari, President, 8212 - 14 Ave., Edmonton 462-7261

ICELANDIC — Sam Thorkelson, Pres., 7951-92 Ave., Edmonton 465-3985

SOLGLYT — Doug Peterson, Pres., 6216-92B Ave., Edmonton 466-9061

SUNRAY LODGE — Tom Haugen, Pres., 8806-162 St., Edmonton 489-1171

SKANDIA — Lennart Petersson, Pres., 7412-87 Ave., Edmonton 469-0259

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE — Per Nielsen, President, 257 South Ridge, Edmonton Bus. 484-5384 Res. 436-4109

VIKING TOASTMASTERS — Peter Elander, Sergeant at Arms, Scandinavian Centre, 455-4355, #1414 Crescent Place, 452-3907

CLUB VIKING — Les Greenham, President, 10424-142 St., Edmonton Bus. 426-4209 Res. 455-0082

VIKING DISCO — Tom Jacobsen, Social Convener, 10981-164 St. 489-1494

MacPherson Fellowship will be the THEME of the evening

All Vikings want to end up in Valhalla, so all you have to do is to feel like a Viking to get there. Bring a friend or two, if you have any. If that fails, come yourself.

For tickets call 484-5384 or 455-4355.

ACTION

KLONDIKE DANCE

Saturday, July 17th, 1976, Club Viking will be going all out. We are going to show the "world" we Scandinavians can get into the spirit of Klondike Days. Sure we give the Klondike a little

Continued on Page 11 VIKING "CRY"

Scandinavian Centre Board of Directors

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PRESIDENT Per Nielsen

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VICE-PRESIDENT, INTERGROUP LIAISON & SCANDAPADES

Solli Sigurdson

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112 Laurier Drive 435-4215

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE NEWS Stan Hafso

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Erling Winquist

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CENTRE MANAGER Peter Elander

Scandinavian Centre

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No. 1414 Crescent Place 452-3907

FLIGHT ORGANIZER Vera Nielsen

12424-141 St., Edmonton 454-5438

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Each member of The Scandinavian Centre receives The Scandinavian Centre News each month free for life. Non-members may subscribe at \$6.00 annually, payable to the Treasurer, Scandinavian Centre and sending it to the Director, Scandinavian Centre News, Mr. Stan Hafso, 11739 - 38A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

Scandinavian groups, societies, organizations, associations or clubs may receive the paper by sending a list of members' names and addresses. A mailing charge of 6¢ per copy will be payable. This payment and other correspondence is to be addressed to: The Scandinavian Centre News 10203 - 78 Street Edmonton, Alberta T6A 3E2

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Moose Jaw SCANDINAVIAN CLUB Christine Ellingson

1192 Alder Ave., Moose Jaw, Sask.

SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



By Molly Cooper COMING EVENTS

Thursday, May 6

Meeting and card party.

Friday, May 14

Syttende Mai Fest.

Monday, May 17

Parade.

Thursday, June 10

Garage Sale, Scandinavian Centre.

Sunday, June 13

Picnic, Scandinavian Centre.

On April 8 after the meeting and initiation of five new members, namely, Mary Jones, Linda Storheim, Linda Gordon, Glen Larson and Ken Do Myer, a cheese, wine punch and coffee, fun and games night was enjoyed by fifty people present.

Hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Knut Svidal and Mrs. Sig Sorenseon, the Horse Race game caused much excitement and laughter. We certainly learned new names of race horses.

Winner of the final race was Glen Larson.

Names of horses were: Viking Spirit, Lopen Lutfisk, Valiant Skull, Yompon Yohnny, Leapin' Lefse and Dainty Damsel.

The draw for the prize for the month of March went to Mrs. Ragna Sivertsen; and the month of April to Mr. Kalmar Amdam.

Mr. and Mrs. Knut Svidal and family skied at Banff, Alberta, during the Easter holidays.

Felix Hovde is working at Grimshaw, Alberta, with his sister, Inez, and brother-in-law.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Hovde and family spent the Easter holidays in their cabin at the Lake.

Irene Hovde is leaving for Norway May 11. She will be celebrating the 17th of May with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Anders Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Inge Anderson and families and friends from Calgary enjoyed a weekend at Kalispell, Montana, skiing on Big Mountain at Whitefish.

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Johnson enjoyed a trip to Las Vegas in February and skiing at Jasper, Alberta, first weekend in April.

While Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meyer enjoyed five days in Las Vegas, their daughter went by plane to visit her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Matt Myhre, at Dawson Creek.

Mrs. Stan Hafso spent Easter holidays with her sister, Mabel, at Regina, Sask., and her father, Mr. Carl Johnson, who is in his nineties, at Strongfield, Sask.

Edwin Sarchuk and family from Richmond, B.C., visited his mother, Mrs. Astrid Hope, during Easter week.

Mr. and Mrs. Kris Nyhus and family are looking forward to spending their summer holidays at their cottage at Spirillen Lake near Hønefoss, Norway, from July 8-Aug. 20, 1976.

Sympathy to Minn Strand in the death of her father.

Sympathy also to Elva Veis, Kay Olafson and Betty McKeivitt in the loss of their mother.

We wish a speedy recovery and good health to those in hospital and those recuperating at home.

Mrs. Irene Sodergard from La Glace, Alberta, at the General Hospital.

Leif Anderson, who has been in hospital with a crushed finger done at work, is home and well.

Mrs. Leif Aasgard, who was hospitalized with a knee operation, is home. Hope you have the cast off, Marion.

To Mr. Sig Sorenseon, recuperating at home after a heart attack, may each day give you added strength.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Tychsen, Randi and Ronald enjoyed a "Fun Tours" trip to Disneyland for the spring break travelling by bus with a group of 37 people. The tour included stopovers at San Francisco, Solvang (Little Denmark), California, Sea World in San Diego, Tijuana, Mexico, Las Vegas, Salt Lake City and Great Falls.

In Disneyland, they ran into Sons of Norway members Angus and Kay McDonald at a sidewalk cafe. So it is a small world.

BINGO WINNERS MARCH 18

Mrs. Roy Sundby

Kris Nyhus

Orla Tychsen

Ruth Zelensky

Dick Larsen

Hilma Nukvi

Helge Nilsen

Henry Logan

Ragna Sivertsen was the March Door Prize winner □

NOTES FROM OLAF

By Olaf Sveen
WESTERN CANADIAN
ACCORDIONISTS
ASSOCIATION

The Western Canadian Accordionists Association was organized on Sunday, March 7 in Calgary with 24 charter members joining at the meeting.

The elections took place and here is a list of the elected officers:

PRESIDENT

Edwin Erickson, Drayton

SKIING IN NORWAY

By Olaf Sveen

It has been said that skiing is a way of moving over snow wearing a pair of long, flat runners called "skis" attached to the shoes or boots. And the definition of the word "ski" could be that it is one of a pair of long, narrow runners curving up in front, made of metal, wood or plastic. The word "ski" is Norwegian, and is related to "ved-ski" or firewood, and could be translated as "wood slice". Skiing is considered a sport, nowadays, both recreational and competitive, but in the beginning it must have been mostly for utilitarian purposes. One source says that Norway is the land in

the world where skis first came into use. The tradition of skiing goes so far back that we had a god skier, Ull, and also a goddess skier, Skade. It can be mentioned that Ull means "wool", and Skade, "hurt".

At Rodoy we have a 4,000-year-old rock carving of a skier, and some skis found in the ground are about 2,500 years old. We find quite a bit written about skiers in Snorris Heimskringla. For instance, Einar Tambaraskjelve was a good skier, and about Arnljot Gelline it has been said that he could travel fast with two guys standing on the back of his skis. One time, King Oystein Magnusson and his brother, Sigurth, were arguing about who was the greater of the two, and King Oystein said: "I am better at the use of skis than you, and that has always been considered a worthwhile accomplishment." It truly was a royal sport, and has been so to this day—King Olav has been an active skier.

The saga's also tell us about military use of skis. One is the story about how the "birchlegs", Torstein Skjelva and Skjervald Skrukka, got the king child, Haakon, away from his enemies by taking him across the mountains on skis. A famous painting by Knut Bergslien uses this event as a motif. This run is now an annual event, and it starts alternately from Lillihammer and Rena. It can also be mentioned that "birchlegs" were members of a political party and that they got their name from using birch bark instead of socks. It would be hard to find a similar party nowadays.

The "King's Mirror", possibly written about 1250, has something like this to say about skis and skiing: "It seems like a great wonder that some men tie long boards to their feet so they can go faster than a bird can fly, and faster than dogs and reindeer. Some men are

so clever that they kill nine reindeer or more in one run when they chase them on skis. Now this will seem unbelievable to people in lands where they don't know about skis, that a man can go so fast using two boards, even though if he takes them off, he is no faster than other men. In fact, in such lands boards would slow a man down if they were tied to his feet. But here we see plenty of people on skis in the wintertime."

Continued on Page 11 SKIING IN NORWAY

DR. T. O. WALHOVD

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ICELANDIC NEWSLETTER

By Lillian MacPherson
ANNUAL MEETING

The executive elected at the annual meeting on March 28 for the next year is:

PRESIDENT

Sam Thorkelson

VICE-PRESIDENT

Les Greenham

SECRETARY

Shirley Thorvaldson

TREASURER

Gus Roland

Al Arnason submitted a draft constitution for examination and study by the membership. Hopefully, a final draft will be ready for the next annual.

RITSAFN

The committee in charge of the Icelandic Society's book club continues to work on the collection of books of interest to the members of the Society. Final decisions regarding housing have not yet been made, but in the interim the collection of 53 books, either donated or purchased with grant money, is being kept at the home of Al and Martha Arnason. These books are all in English, and are either about Iceland, or are translations of works by Icelandic authors, or are written by Canadians of Icelandic origin. If you're a member of the Society, and wish to browse or borrow from this collection, you're welcome to drop in at Al and Martha's at 14434 McQueen Rd. Before you go over, make sure you call them at 455-7946, so that they know to expect you. Al is in the process of compiling a list of the titles available, which then can be circulated to members.

LETTER OF THANKS FROM TODY HALLDORSON

"I wish to thank the members of the Icelandic Society for the coffee party held in my honor on March 21, also the gift of a beautiful brooch. The party was superb and the food excellent, as usual.

"I shall miss all of you and the friendly associations I have had with you. Please come and see me. My new address will be, Suite 101, 75 Strauss Drive, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 3R6. From Tody Halldorson."

I'm sure everyone joins me in wishing Tody well in Winnipeg. We'll miss her hearty laugh and quick sense of humour in Edmonton!

CONGRATULATIONS

We have occasion to extend congratulations for graduation, promotion, marriage and birth this month. It must be spring; the season for renewal and beginnings!

BEV ARASON is graduating from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. She will be employed as a pharmacist at Woodward's in Edmonton Centre.

GAIL MITCHELL was promoted to retail investi-

gation from security guard in her job with Wackenhut, a security company.

DONNA CAMERON was married to Guillermo Jemenez Diaz on March 17 in Mexico. A full description of the wedding will be in the next paper.

WALTER and **BEULAH ARASON** welcomed their fifth grandson on March 26. **JONATHAN STUART** (already called Jon) was born at the General Hospital in Edmonton to Don and Carol Arason and weighed 7 lbs. 13 oz.

LUCILLE and **LEIF ODDSON** welcomed their second grandson on April 6. **BRENT MICHAEL** was born to Loni and Dave Hagen, and weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz.

FREDA and **CAM SMITH** welcomed their second granddaughter on April 10. **REBECCA FAY** was born to Bob and Susan Smith, and weighed in at a lady-like 6 lbs. 8 oz., and is a sister to Tobie Brenna.

HOSPITALIZED

George Bessason of Yellowknife is a patient in the Charles Camsell Hospital. We hope he will be well and out of hospital soon.

TRAVELLERS AND VISITORS

Gail Mitchell travelled with brother **Bryce Mitchell** and family to Hawaii for two weeks. They stayed on beautiful Waikiki and had a marvellous time. **AL** and **MARTHA ARNASON** also holidayed in Hawaii, but split their time between the islands of Hawaii and Maui. They came back looking fit and rested.

MARGARET and **DON CAMERON** went to Mexico with O.V. and **LORRAINE GISLASON** for three weeks. They spent time travelling, visiting with daughter **Donna**, and attended her wedding, which was the highlight, and reason, for the trip.

GUNNAR and **SHIRLEY THORVALDSON** and daughters **Cindy** and **Carla** motored to California during spring break to visit with **Gunnar's** sister, **Rose Thorvaldson**, in Pacific Grove. **Margret Thorvaldson**, **Gunnar's** mother, drove back to Vancouver with them. She is spending April with her daughter, **Joyce Tonn**.

BURKIE LETOURNEAU spent spring break in Vancouver with family.

CHRIS and **LAURA HALE** will be leaving for a sabbatical year in May. They will spend some time in Iceland, and the balance in Norway, where **Chris** will be working on further research.

SKAFTI and **FJOLA THORVALDSON** were here visiting with son **Tommy** and his wife, **Sandra**. It was their grandson **Brady's** first birthday April 6 and they joined in the celebration.

DEAN VIGFUSSON, son of **Norm** and **Doris Vigfusson**, and his friend,

Islendingadagurinn Poetry

Contest

THE 1976 ISLENDINGADAGURINN HONOUR PRIZE IN POETRY PRIZE MONEY \$100

The prize winner will be announced August 2, 1976, at the Icelandic Festival at Gimli, Manitoba. The prize will be presented in person to the poet or, if that is not possible, mailed to the winner.

Entries may be published for one time distribution only at the time the prize is announced but no entry will be published for commercial purposes without the consent of the poet.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- The contest is open to any individual whose ancestry is Icelandic.
- Each entrant, by submitting a poem, acknowledges his assent to the conditions of the entry.
- Each entry must be original, and unpublished on the date of submission.
- Each entry must be type-written, double spaced on one side of plain, unlined paper 8 1/2"x11". Any clear copy is acceptable.
- Entries must be post-marked between March 15, 1976, and July 1, 1976.
- Poet's name and address, and title and first line of poem must appear on two typewritten 3"x5" cards placed in a sealed envelope. Only title and first line of poem must appear on face of envelope. Title must appear on the entry.
- No entries will be returned.

Merchon Irving, of Cheney, Wash., motored to Edmonton April 4 to spend a week here visiting with **Rick Hawes**, **Glen Scheideman** and other relatives in and around Edmonton. The thing that impressed them the most after crossing the border was the fast-moving traffic due to the speed limits enforced in the States. **Les** and **Thorey Greenham** tell me via the telephone that they really enjoyed the company of **Dean** and **Merchon** and that their visit was much too short.

The **MacPherson's** have enjoyed two visiting dignitaries during the last month. **Lillian's** brother, **Jon Bjarnason**, was here from Vancouver playing in a handball tournament, and brought daughter **Holly**, only two years, to get better acquainted with this branch of the family. Brother-in-law **GORD LINDAL** was here later, also from Vancouver, playing hockey in a western Canadian tournament.

NEXT MONTH

Save **JUNE 19** for the annual picnic at **MARKERVILLE**, always a wonderful day for all ages.

Send or phone news to **Lillian MacPherson** at 7870 Jasper Ave., phone 422-7557 for next month's paper. □

- Entries must be addressed to **W. D. Valgardson**, Department of Creative Writing, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., Canada.

- No more than three entries may be submitted by one poet.

- Entries must not exceed 30 lines.

- The directors of the contest will not enter into any communication whatever about the contest or individual entries.

- Entries must be in English.

Reprints of this announcement may be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed business envelope to **Poetry Contest, W. D. Valgardson**, Department of Creative Writing, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C., Canada. □

Icelandic Folklore in Canada

ORAL TRADITION AND ETHNIC BOUNDARIES; "WEST" ICELANDIC VERSES AND ANECDOTES
By **M. Einarsson**
From **Canadian Ethnic Studies**, Special Issue:
Ethnic Folklore in Canada
INTRODUCTION

Icelandic settlers and their descendants in North America have traditionally referred to themselves as "West Icelanders" (*Vestur Islendingar*). All West Icelanders mentioned in this paper were immigrants to Canada or are the children of immigrants. They are bilingual and have acquired North American survival skills but they are by and large culturally unassimilated. They are older people (between sixty and ninety) who have lived more than half their lives in agricultural and fishing communities north, west and south of Winnipeg (in particular, the area on the western shore of Lake Winnipeg known as "New Iceland"), in the Lake Settlements immediately south of Little and Big Quill Lakes in Saskatchewan, and to a lesser extent in Markerville, Alberta, and Blaine, Washington. Unless otherwise stated, it is the traditions of these pioneering settlers with which this paper is concerned. The following is a description and an assessment of two of their vital oral traditions, the anecdote (*sögn*) and the single, independent verse (*lausavisa*) and how they have functioned to maintain the integrity and boundaries (1) of the immigrant community.

PART I THE WEST ICELANDIC HISTORICAL TRADITION

It would be going too far to liken the relatively recent immigration of Icelanders to North America

to the settlement of Iceland in the ninth and tenth centuries, yet it is possible to find in the following words of **Knut Liestøl** describing that ancient settlement, truths that seem no less applicable to more recent events. He says:

In the early days the subject which was most likely to interest the colonists was the actual settlement; they would be anxious to know how they had been brought together and how the new settlement had come into existence; why they had emigrated and when and how they had obtained their lands... Then came a time when the colonists had settled down. A new local environment had come into existence. New family ties had been formed, and once more there was a store of historical memories in which all could share, in which the majority were interested, and which formed a natural subject of conversation at social gatherings. (2)

In terms of history, similar circumstances sometimes produce similar

Continued on Page 10
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VASA LODGE SKANDIA



By Gertie Holmgren

The regular April meeting was held in the Dania Room on April 3 with Chairman Lennart Petersson in the chair.

Those members reported sick are Hansine Pierre, Harriette Nylen, Alma Samuelson and Linnea Christiansen. We hope all are well soon.

Four new members were initiated into our order. Don Johnson gave an interesting report on their trip which took them to the maritimes and all through the U.S. Our thanks to Charlotte Samuelson for the lovely lunch served after the meeting.

The regular June meeting will be at the clubhouse at Pigeon Lake on Saturday, June 5.

For several months now there has been a large hole in one corner of the Dania Room which evidently leads into the Nordic Room. I presume it is the result of some repair work which somehow never has been completed. It was quite confusing during our meeting to hear remarks which had nothing to do with our business coming out of the wall. This is the way the Treasurer's report sounded to me. Dues collected to April 1. All you beautiful ladies. Bills. My mother and father. Bank balance. Greetings from Pierre E. Trudeau.

This year we have something new in Edmonton and district. It's what's called the spring break. Needless to say, several of our members took advantage of this spring break and teachers, students, secretaries, grandparents and, of course, parents took spring vacations of 7-14 days' duration. Ken and Carol Banks, with their children, Jennifer and Curtis, and Carol's parents, Margaret and Eric Engvall, motored to Portland to visit relatives. Glen and Audrey Eliasson and their children, Karen, Brian and Sheila, motored to White Rock to visit Bert and Margaret Lundgren (Glen's mother). Winnie Pearson spent a week in Vancouver visiting daughter Rita who has recently moved there from Edmonton. Rita is now working for Safeways in Vancouver. Soren and Ann Sorensen and family spent the spring break cross-country skiing at Jasper. Gail and Joe Sullivan of Calgary dropped son Jesse off at Grandma Sund and took Murray along on a skiing trip to Jasper. Clifford and Paula Lindberg had their grandson, Darren Pearson, of Rich-

mond, B.C. for a visit during the spring break. Later Clifford and Paula flew to Hawaii where they met their daughter, Bernice, and family. Knut Engstrom also visited Hawaii. He was one of a group of 18 consisting of his daughter, son, grandchildren and friends who took advantage of the spring break.

Dean and Lorraine Lindberg also visited Hawaii this winter. Bert and Vi Watson chose Mazatlan, Mexico, for their winter vacation. Harold and Lulu Lundgren of Kamloops, B.C., travelled to Saskatoon for a reunion of friends and neighbors who had been responsible for raising funds to build a covered rink while they were residents of St. Lawrence Crescent in Saskatoon. They visited friends in Edmonton enroute. Hannah Sand and Emma Nelson with friends Polly Olsen and Ellen Foster travelled by bus as far south as San Diego. They stopped at Las Vegas on the way home and report that their right arms are much stronger as a result of working the slot machines. They didn't report any monetary gains or losses. Ruth Berquist spent a few days visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Anna and Al Rosinski, who live in the State of Washington, just across the border and work in Vancouver. Ruth also visited her sister, Mildred Hanson, and her father, Mr. Richard Strand, of New Westminster, B.C.

Erland and Ethel Markstrom are now back from a winter in Florida, visiting Ethel's sister. While there they flew to Mexico for a weekend holiday.

Jim Markstrom and his friend, Mike Krawchuk, are back from a 3-month holiday in the U.S. They travelled by camper and took their motor bikes along. Their trip took them through 21 states to the southern tip of Florida. They stopped in Georgia for a week where they visited friends and travelled on their motor bikes through the hills of Georgia. Oh, to be young in this day and age!

Then, of course, the Johnson's (Don and Evelyn) are back after travelling for six months. I hope to get more details on their trip and shall let you hear about it at a later date. Welcome back to all of you.

Congratulations to Gary and Linda Melander on the birth of their first child, a girl, Patricia Joyanna, born March 15, weighing in at

7 lbs. 12 oz.

Raul Nyroos, who was working at Casselgar, B.C., is now living in Vancouver working for the Department of Transport. Andy and Ivy Ogren are back in Edmonton living in Mill Woods.

I spent the first 17 days of March in Florida along with my sister and brother-in-law, Annie and Sig Melander, of Westerosse, visiting relatives near Miami. The weather was beautiful, around 80°F. Really lovely and I got quite a nice tan.

Upon my return from Florida, I was very sorry to hear that Oscar Pearson had come home from Hawaii with pneumonia and had spent the last few days of his visit there in bed. Hansine Pierre had suffered a stroke so the Pierres came home on a later plane with Hansine on a stretcher. I'm happy to report that Oscar is now well and, at the time of this writing, Hansine is coming along well. She is at the Glenrose Hospital taking therapy and is home on weekends. She is now able to walk a little bit. I visited Hansine at the Glenrose and, as she is unable to write, she asked me to say thank you on her behalf to all her friends who have been so kind during her illness and for all the flowers and cards which she has received.

BOWLING

The bowling season came to an end on April 7 with the Berg Jr. team, consisting of Calvin Berg, Jenny Bell, Ken Herder, Andy Wendrynuik and Richard Quitsau in first place. In second we have the Berg Sr. team consisting of Clarence Berg, Art Welda, Shirley Berg, Louis Gagne and Jeanette Bignall. Charlotte Samuelson had ladies' single highest average and highest triple, but on Awards Night can only accept one, so she has chosen the high single. It was 325. Dianne Pearson then gets highest average, and Jenny Dahlseide highest triple. Men's high average: Pete Johnson, High single: George Cox, High triple: Louis Gagne. Three of our bowlers had perfect attendance. They are Karl Leander, Dean and Sonia Dahlseide. The District Bowling Tournament will be held on May 15 at Medicine Hat and our Banquet and Awards Night on May 28 at Balwin community hall.

The curling club had an enjoyable season but, like all good things, it also came to an end. Total point winner was the Glen Eliasson team with Gertrude Holmgren as lead, Phyllis Tapio, second, Leonard Eliasson, third and Glen Eliasson, skip. Section winners were Bob Lewis, skip, Al Anderson, third, Daren Melan, second and Merna Melan as lead. Our bonspiel winners were the Bob Lewis team for the "A" section, and the Milton Fawcett team for the "B" section. Milton

Fawcett, skip, Lowell Lysing, third, Gary Melander, second and Debbie Knudson, lead. The executive for the coming season is Bob Lewis, President; Lowell Lysing, Vice-President; Gertrude Holmgren, Secretary; Phyllis Tapio, Vice-Secretary. The curling club will hold its Awards Night on June 5 at the clubhouse at Pigeon Lake following the regular meeting.

The Ladies' Auxiliary held its April meeting at the home of Harold and Minnie Markstrom on April 9. It was decided that this would be the last meeting until September. The Coffee Party at the Molson House will be on May 19 at 2:00 o'clock.

While driving one day in Florida, we had to stop for the lights. A five-year-old relative of mine asked if I knew what lights were for. I said, "No," and got this explanation. "They're so people can cross and you can think about where you want to turn."

Thank you to Betty Pearson and my daughters, Audrey Eliasson and Virginia Fawcett, for taking care of my report while I was away.

ON MOTHER'S DAY

Our children, God bless them,
Are a credit and true—
I marvel to think how
You mother'd them
through
Measles and mumps,
Scarlet fever and cold—
And the hundreds of rhymes
And fairy tales told!

Ever patient, untiring,
Devotedly true—
Every virtue of mother
God has given to you.
Of alone, without husband,
Your family to raise,
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FINNISH SOCIETY

s y s

By Elmer Kankkunen

The Finnish Society held its annual ice fishing derby at Skeleton Lake this year. The weatherman co-operated, resulting in a good turnout of competitors. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Erkila for the use of their cottage as a base of operations. Unfortunately, a carload of would-be competitors from Thorhild got lost enroute and were never seen again. Winning catches were not as large as in some previous years, however, almost everyone caught something and went home happy. Happiest one of all was probably Michael Karvonen with his big pickerel.

Results were as follows:
MEN'S DIVISION

1. Arvo Ruut — 20 lbs.
2. Mikko Lindfors — 8 1/2 lbs.
3. (Tie) Urho Leino, Veikko Leino — 4 3/4 lbs.

LADIES' DIVISION

1. Sirkka Ristola — 3 1/4 lbs.

2. Anja Leino — 2 3/4 lbs.
3. Anne Sahuri — 2 1/2 lbs.

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

1. Michael Karvonen — 6 1/4 lbs.
2. Dick Sahuri — 4 1/4 lbs.
3. Marleen Kankkunen — 1 1/2 lbs.

Miss Ulla Vesalainen returned from Finland last January after spending some six months there with her parents. She was hospitalized briefly before resuming teaching duties with the Edmonton School Board at Millwoods. She wishes to express her thanks for the flowers received from the Finnish Society.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Lof also wish to express their appreciation for flowers received on the occasion of the birth of their daughter, Angie Susanne, March 16.

Early in March members of the Finnish Society friends and relations held a surprise birthday party for Mr. Lauri Kuusela. It's hard to say who was more surprised, Laurie, by the number of friends that showed up, or the friends, who find his age hard to believe. Lauri is in such good shape he could easily pass for a man at least 20 years younger. Perhaps his wife, Irja, is somewhat responsible.

Lauri sends the following note:

"My sincere thanks to all for a most memorable 70th birthday. My love and admiration for the Eskimo is exemplified in your gift of a piece of their art. I thank you again for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Lauri Kuusela" □

FINLAND - SUOMI

PART XI
FOREIGN TRADE
More than most countries

FINNS, SWEDES AND THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL

By Elmer Kankkunen

The first Finns in America arrived at the mouth of the Delaware River in March 1638 as part of a Swedish expedition fleet. This was less than 18 years after the Pilgrim Fathers came over in the Mayflower. Eleven expeditions followed, a fortress was built and the colony of about 400 was named New Sweden. Half of the population were Finns, mostly from the Savo area of Finland.

John Morton was one of the founding fathers and co-signer of the Declaration of Independence, and was the great grandson of a Finnish settler who reached Delaware in 1641.

Finns and Swedes celebrated 300 years in America in 1938 and a U.S. postage

stamp commemorating the landing was issued at the time. Finland is dependent on foreign trade. The revenues earned by her woodworking industry abroad are used to buy most of the food, capital and consumer goods, and raw materials which cannot be produced at home. About 50% of all Finnish exports are products of the woodworking industry. Her main customers are Great Britain and the other Western European countries, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Since World War II Finnish exports have become more varied as both the metal-working and ship-building industries have substantially increased their export capabilities.

About two-thirds of Finland's foreign trade is with Western Europe. Of the remaining one-third, one-half is with the eastern European countries and the other half with the overseas countries. The trend towards European economic integration is followed with positive interest in Finland. The nature of Finland's status in this respect is naturally determined by the requirements of her neutrality and by the structure of her foreign trade.

In March 1961 an agreement was signed making Finland an associate member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). This agreement gives Finland the same rights and obligations as the other members of EFTA. Since 1968 all imports to Finland of EFTA industrial products are free from protective duties and quantitative restrictions. Finland's negotiations for co-operation with the Common Market (EEC) aiming at securing her trading interests without affecting Finland's traditional foreign policy of neutrality were concluded in 1972. They resulted in a free trade agreement similar to that of Sweden. This agreement was ratified by Parliament in November 1973. □

stamp commemorating the landing was issued at the time.

It is therefore fitting that the Finns in the U.S. were the first ethnic group to commence their bicentennial projects. Numerous artists, theatrical groups from Finland, etc., will be taking part in the various events planned by American Finns across the country. □

LAPPS TODAY

LAPP DILEMMA: OLD PEOPLE IN NEW AGE

While some among Norway's Lapp minority have started talking Norwegian to their children, idealists are leading a hard fight against complete assimilation, the outcome of which is difficult to predict. One decisive factor may be the attitude adopted by the young people. If they wish to preserve and cultivate their mother tongue there may still be hope that the Lapps can preserve their identity as a distinct ethnic group. These efforts are now receiving the active support of the Norwegian authorities.

The Lapps' unique culture has been shaped by their harsh environment north of the Arctic Circle. The soil is so thin that it can be removed with a spoon, with moss on top and sterile gravel underneath. This is Finnmarksvidda, Norway's and Europe's most northerly wilderness. Here and there beech woods grow for the Arctic winds to rustle. Swarms of insects in the summer and way below freezing in winter—this is the home of the reindeer.

Reindeer herding remains an important activity for the Lapps of northern Norway along with farming and fishing. Nobody knows how many Lapps there actually are—or how many reindeer. The census registers 20,000 Lapps, but this includes only those who declare they are Lapps. There are probably more, since many feel that to be identified as a Lapp is somehow inferior.

Published figures indicate that there are 400,000 reindeer. One thing, though, is agreed by both the authorities and the reindeer herders: regardless of the actual figure, there are at any rate too many reindeer in relation to the pasture available.

ACTION PLAN

Measures to help the Lapp areas in northern Norway have been proposed by the authorities in their so-called action plan for the region. One of the measures involves a reduction in the number of reindeer herding units and an increase in the

number of reindeer per unit. This will, it is hoped, provide the herdsman and his family with a decent income.

The authorities estimate today that about 700-800 persons in 445 herding units are wholly dependent on reindeer. A total of 1,900 people live by herding this animal, 1,700 of them in Norway's most northern county, Finnmark. The herding units are small with half having less than 200 head of reindeer. This is below the level the authorities feel to be acceptable.

The annual return from the whole reindeer herd in 1970 has been put at only about 11 million kroner (\$2 million) which corresponds to an average of no more than 1,200 kroner (\$220) per registered reindeer owner. Clearly, nobody can live on this—by comparison the average net annual return in Norwegian farming in 1970 was about 20,000 kroner (\$3,640). Many owners supplement their incomes by farming, fishing or other work.

The authorities plan to create alternative jobs for the people who have to give up reindeer herding. This is no easy task, especially since keeping reindeer is not just an occupation, but also a life style and cultural form. People who have adapted themselves through generations to the needs of their animals and the ways of nature, cannot easily be absorbed into modern industrial society.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture within the Lapp areas ought to be developed, the Norwegian authorities feel. In order to achieve this, educational opportunities are being created and economic subsidy arrangements established. Research has also started with an eye towards protecting the reindeer herds against annual loss through sickness and poor quality stock.

The Lapps themselves feel that not all forms of industry or mining fit into their environment. Even though commercially exploitable deposits of various ores have been found on Finnmarksvidda, the Lapps are concerned about how

their future is to be shaped by these industries. Cottage or home industry, on the other hand, is regarded with greater interest, particularly if it involves handicrafts. A higher degree of on-the-spot processing of reindeer products is also included in the plans. At present, the animals are slaughtered and sent to the market as carcasses and processed in southern Norway.

The Lapps are otherwise interested in making greater use of land unsuited for cultivation. Fishing and hunting on such land is considered attractive, along with berry picking. Cloudberries are the most important berry crop since Norwegians regard them as a great delicacy and there is a ready market for them in the south. There is great interest in berry picking, and one of the typical Lapp municipalities in Finnmark, Kautokeino, is considering organizing the marketing of cloudberries.

Efforts are at the same time being made to raise housing standards for the Lapps. About 5 million kroner (\$900,000) per annum is now being contributed by the authorities for this purpose. Results are now beginning to emerge even though the lack of qualified building workers in this region has posed a major problem.

EDUCATION

Considerable sums are being spent on improving the education available to the Lapps. They have their own elementary schools, using Lapp as the main language of instruction. There has been a shortage of qualified teachers who can speak Lapp, but this problem is on the verge of solution now that a separate course for Lapp teachers has been established at the Teacher Training College in the north Norwegian town of Alta.

The Lapps have long had their own Folk High School, a specifically Scandinavian phenomenon providing varied courses in both general and vocational fields.

Another new cultural centre is provided by the

Continued on Page 10
LAPPS TODAY

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DANIA DOINGS



By Lili Nielsen

Compared to last year's March dance, this year's dance for the month of March was well attended (increased by 45%). We believe the 181 people attending had a good evening. The membership draw in the amount of \$40.00 was won by Mr. and Mrs. Knud Svendgaard, but as they were not present another \$5.00 has been added for our April dance.

We hereby want to inform you that the players of the Danish Soccer Club have decided not to play for Dania any longer. We regret this and we are at present trying to form another team to represent the Danish Club. Further information regarding this matter will be forwarded to you through our Newsletter, which we plan to mail to you in May.

After a very hectic and, what we feel, a successful winter season, "Dania Doings" is now going to slow down for the summer months, but we shall be celebrating Klondike Days on Friday, July 23, 1976. More information regarding this event will be brought to you at a later date.

BIKUBEN will meet on May 17, 1976, at 8:00 p.m. at 12424 - 141 Street, Edmonton. □

NEWS FROM ANSGAR

By Pastor Holger N. Madsen

As reported in last month's news—May 15 is the date of the Ladies' Aid Annual Spring Bazaar to be held at the Eastwood Community Hall, 11803 - 86 St. However, we made an error in the hours of operation. The Bazaar will open at 11 a.m. and will run through until 5 p.m. This means then that you can come early and make your purchases of bedding plants, handicrafts, leverpostej, baking, etc., before lunch. And then you can treat yourself to a delicious Danish lunch with open-face sandwiches and Danish pastry. The price for this palate-tickling treat is ridiculously low, and the quality is fantastically high—so make sure YOU get in on it.

If you have not as yet had the opportunity to purchase a lucky ticket on the \$500 cash draw, or on the lovely lace tablecloth or the convenient, stainless steel food slicer, you may call either one of these people: Vera Nielsen, 454-5438; Mary Jensen, 426-3077; or Nora Steffensen, 426-1333. You may be certain that any

one of these ladies will be willing and able to assist you. On May 23 we shall be having our Confirmation Day at Ansgar. That morning, there will be two services—one at 10 a.m. and one at 11:30 a.m. This year there are 10 young people who will be confirming their faith. In order to provide sufficient seating space for all the friends and guests of the Confirmands, we have two services, this way we can assure people of being able to find a seat.

The congregational Fellowship for May will take the form of a Potluck Smorgasbord on Friday, May 28 at the pastor's place in Sherwood Park. The time is early evening—6:30 to 7:00 p.m. The idea is that each family brings along a platter of something—salad, meat, vegetables, etc.—and these are all placed on a table and then we share in what we have brought. Each person is responsible to bring their own utensils—we shall provide plastic cups. The Men's Club will be supplying coffee for the adults, as well as pop for the kids. Everyone is invited, and if you want to bring a friend, please do so. We are hoping for good weather so that we can be outside, and being that there are three acres to roam on, we shouldn't have any overcrowding problems.

Oh, yes, if your kids enjoy a wiener or marshmallow roast, by all means bring some of these items along and we shall build a fire in short order.

Since last spring, there have been some changes made in our traffic lights. Instead of turning south at a blinking light, you now turn south at the second set of traffic lights, as you continue east on the Sherwood Park Freeway. Go one-half mile south to the first road to your left, marked with a sign—Whitecroft & East Whitecroft. Continue east on that road, keeping hard to the left, until you come to a dead end; there you turn right, and we are the first place on the right-hand side—Lot 21. There is a 35-foot-high windmill in the yard. We hope that many will take this opportunity for fellowship. We'll look for you.

On the first Sunday in June, we plan to have our Annual Congregational Picnic. This year it will be held at the sunny acreage of Hans and Edith Rasmussen in Winterburn. We trust that this year, as in the past that the rain showers will continue to come from the east, that way we should perhaps have a dry picnic for a change. Watch for further information and directional map in the Ansgar NEWSLETTER.

On the second Sunday of June, we shall have the honor of having a guest speaker at our morning service. She is Miss Margaret Nissen, from Dickson, Alta. Miss Nissen has been a mission-

A History of Saskatoon Scandinavian Club

1966-1976
By Kaija and Richard Harris
Saskatoon, Sask.
Feb. 1976

I have written this history of the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club following the example of earlier historians, such as Ari inn Frooi and Snorri Sturluson. For information, my wife and I have read aged manuscripts, letters, and other documents, and I have consulted with men older and wiser than myself, familiar with events and traditions which most have now forgotten. For what is true in this history I am indebted to others; for what is wrong I myself am at fault.

"Jaf lǣngtar hem," wrote August Strindberg while on the Continent, although he never actually did return to Sweden for any length of time. It was, in his circumstances, more convenient to write nostalgically of the possibility than to attempt to experience the reality. The universal urge to return, which must have been a considerable factor in the emotional fabric of the Scandinavian settler in the United States and Canada, is touchingly expressed by Vilhelm Moberg in his four-volume epic on the emigration of some people from Småland to America. In *The Immigrants*, Kristina has momentarily forgotten the hardships of life in Sweden which she and her husband, Karl Oskar, have journeyed to Minnesota to escape. Like Strindberg, she thinks of home:

"A little later on in the summer there were roses . . . And there in the evening light stood the astrakhan which she'd planted herself by the gable

ary to Nigeria for many years, and at the time that Ansgar Church in Edmonton was begun, she was present for the dedication service. After the service on June 13, we shall have a fellowship luncheon in the church parlors so that people may have the opportunity to meet and greet Miss Nissen. We hope that you will plan to come.

A SPECIAL NOTE TO THE MEMBERS OF "ANSGAR 60 AND OVER" CLUB

Our next meeting will be held on MAY 20, Thursday, rather than on our regular meeting date of May 12. The reason for this change is that on May 20 they are having "Senior Citizens Day" at Fort Edmonton. This means that on that day there is no charge for Senior Citizens to tour the Fort. Be at the church at 1 p.m. We shall have a specially chartered Edmonton Transit Bus to take us to the Fort Edmonton grounds. After the tour we shall return to the church for our coffee. Be sure to tell your friends of this change of date, and do bring a friend. The bus holds 52 passengers. □

as company for the lonely rosebush. Every fall she had dug around the little tree. The astrakhan bore its first apples the last autumn she was still at home."

She also remembers the people:

"She who was to go stood outside the gate, those whom she was leaving stood inside. Mother said, 'Don't forget, beloved daughter, that we want to meet you when we are with God!' Her father stood and leaned against the gate post; he said nothing. He stood with face turned away and leaned against the post as if he sought support. She walked away, and they stood still. They stood still whom she would never get to see again in this world. The evening was light, a slow-falling dusk, and the evening's light was a good light for her where she walked along

the road. It had rained during the day but cleared in the evening. There was the fragrance of spring over black fields and green when she went from the farm where she had been born."

The ties with the old life were strong; the love for the land and people left behind went deep. A person could take to brooding. Kristina is brought back to herself by her husband's showing her the shoes which had belonged to their daughter, Anna, who died in the winter before they left Småland.

In real life, however, the brooding could lead to extremes of behaviour. There is the case of the Finn, Tom Sukanen (originally, Tomi Jaanus Alankola), born near Vaasa, in Osterbotten, in 1878. Around the turn of the century he

Continued on Page 8
SASKATOON CLUB

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BUFORD NEWS

By Florence Pearson

The smorgåsbörd, sponsored by the Buford Vasa Lodge held in Calmar, was a huge success. Thanks to all who attended. The winners of the raffle of the Swedish linen were Mrs. Martha Owens of Leduc and Mrs. Margaret Shorten of Willow Creek.

Albin's nephew and wife from Sweden have been visiting at the Markstedt home for a month. While here, Albin and Wanda took them on a motor tour to Victoria.

Congratulations to Hilda Modin who celebrated her birthday on April 10. The family gathered at the home of her daughter, Ruth, for coffee and goodies. We all wish her many more birthdays.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Modin and family spent the weekend in Vermilion. The occasion was Peggy's sister's 45th wedding anniversary celebrated with supper and open house. On their return they visited in Viking and Bruce.

Shane and Harry Hanson Jr. spent their Easter break week in Calgary with Shane's folks.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Erickson of Madden visited with Lloyd and Angela Pearson over last weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Pearson have just returned from a 14-day tour of the western United States and into Mexico, also spending a day in Disneyland. The tour was thoroughly enjoyed. The Grand Canyon was a sight to behold.

Congratulations are in order to Fred and Mavis Hamilton who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on March 27 with a lovely supper and do in the Glen Park Hall. Everyone having a wonderful time.

Clair and Avis Pearson accompanied by Clare and Alice Evenson are flying to Las Vegas for the coming weekend. We wish you luck. □

LETTERS

Editor,

Will purchase copies of the books featuring the late Major - General Hjalmer Riiser-Larsen (Aas - Aws relative) and navigator of dirigible "Norge" during 1926 Polar flight; namely, "First Crossing the Polar Sea" by Roald Amundsen (1928) and "My Polar Flights" by Umberto Nobile (1961). Need information on Helga Graven Martinson 1858 - 1905 and Auden Martinson 1850-1931 of New Rockford, N. Dakota. Also Guro "Julia" Graven Johnson 1852-1909 and Ole W. Johnson, birth and death dates unknown, of New Rockford, N. Dakota. Also information on Mary Holum

SCANDAPADES PHOTOGRAPHS

Would the following people who ordered Scandapades '76 photographs kindly pick them up at the Scandinavian Centre. The price is 50¢ per picture.

Lillos, Knasset, Toija Elomaa, Sig Sorenson, Astrid Hope, Anne Sahuri, Judy Kugler, Camrose Annefoss and Haugen.

Phone No. 455-4355. □

Foss (1889 - 1927) and Richard A. Foss of Ontario-Saskatchewan area. Mange tusen takk! Sincerely, Mrs. Anne Graven Aws 122 Second Avenue Madison, Minn. 56256

Managing Editor:

Please find enclosed \$5.00 donation for Scandinavian Centre News.

We enjoy your paper very much.

Eino & Jennie Tikkanen Rich Lake, Alberta

Dear Sir:

We enjoy receiving the S.C.N. out here in beautiful B.C. We have been here now for 4 years and really enjoy it. We like golfing and we can golf 10-11 months out of the year out here. But we do like to get back to Edmonton once or twice a year in the "summer" time.

Find enclosed \$5.00 to the paper.

Yours

John & Pearl Swanson 9534 McNaught Road Chilliwack, B.C.

Dear Mr. Morris:

Thank you for sending the paper. Enclosing a cheque. Trust you will continue the household or recipe column. I tried the window cleaner and it's super.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

G. V. Purvis Victoria, B.C. □

FINNISH FESTIVAL

The executive committee for the 1976 Finnish Great Summer Festival in Montreal is as follows: Mr. Matti Terho, chairman; Mr. Erkki Kuutti, vice-chairman; Miss Kieli Lintunen, secretary; Mr. Sulo Mononen, advertising; Mrs. Valvikki Härkönen, treasurer; Reverend Markku Suokona, in charge of the church service. □

FINNISH HOUSE IN VANCOUVER

The Finlandia House Committee has received a grant of \$820,000 from the British Columbia Government for construction of the building as part of the Kensington Centre Recreation Project. Total cost is estimated at \$2.5 million. □

FEDERAL GRANT

Alberta Senator Earl Hastings announced on March 30, nine federal multicultural grants for ethnic groups in the province

of Alberta.

One recipient was the Scandinavian Folk Singers of Calgary conducted by Mrs. Einer Kumlin of that city.

"The fostering of our cultural ties to the many founding peoples of Alberta is an important and significant part of the federal Liberal government's mandate to develop national pride and unity," Senator Hastings said.

"I congratulate warmly these organizations of people who care about our heritage and traditions." □

WANT TO PUBLISH?

Do you have a manuscript ready for publication? Do you know that the Social Science Research Council of Canada (SSRCC) administers a substantial program and aid to scholarly books? Book-length manuscripts from all branches of the social sciences, which represent advanced scholarly research and which make an important contribution to the advancement of knowledge, but which are unlikely ever to be self-supporting, are considered by an academic publications committee. The subsidy will be related to the anticipated deficit on production of the book, and will be paid to the publisher.

For more details of this program, and for copies of the brochures *Guide to Scholarly Publishing in Canada* and *The Thesis and the Book*, write to Aid to Publications Programme, The Social Science Research Council of Canada, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa K1P 5H3.

NEED A GRANT?

The Citizenship Registration Branch of the Department of the Secretary of State is inviting proposals for researchers in the Social Sciences for studies of immigrants' perception of, and attitudes to, Canadian citizenship. The purpose of the study is to provide an information base which will enable more effective outreach and encouragement to eligible immigrants to consider, and apply for, Canadian citizenship. The proposed contents of the study include information on levels of knowledge and awareness of citizenship requirements and procedures, data on individual attitudes and perceptions or group effects which might encourage or inhibit a propensity to apply for Canadian citizenship among specific nationality groups, and data relating to an individual researcher's interest. □

FINNISH PAPER

The Finnish Paper, Canadian Utiset, published in Thunder Bay, was 60 years old in October 1975. It was established by J. A. Mustonen, Karl E. Hill and E. J. Korte in 1915. The longest owners of the paper were Mr. and Mrs. Bruce J. Lahti, who bought it in April 1956 and kept it until February 1975, when it was sold to Finnews Limited. □

FINNISH WAR MONUMENT

The 58th anniversary of Finland's independence was commemorated December 7, 1975, by the unveiling of a monument on the grounds of the Finnish Agricola Lutheran Church in Toronto. The monument, in memory of Finns who lost their lives in the Second World War, was made from granite brought from Finland where it was part of the defence line in Karelia against Russian tanks in 1944. The rock was cut and engraved at the Smith Monument Company of Toronto by one of their employees, Mr. H. Tyrvaenen—who is also vice-president of the War Veterans. □

SASKATOON CLUB Continued from Page 7

had come to Minnesota and ten years or so later had left his wife and children, walking to the Macrorie district of Saskatchewan. Although he had saved \$9,000 by the early 1920s, he never thought of buying a boat ticket to make the return visit to his homeland of which he dreamed. Instead, he built a boat himself. Over a period of twenty years he allowed the venture to consume gradually the whole of his being, so that in the early 1940s he abandoned his farm to live in the cabin of the 43-foot vessel he had worked for so many years to construct. All his savings had gone into it, and it was still incomplete. Tom Sukanen died in 1943, but his ship can be seen in the Pioneer Village and Museum near Moose Jaw, poignant testimony to the achievement which the urge to return can inspire in the creative Scandinavian heart.

It was no doubt this sense of nostalgia which found expression among the Danes who were responsible for the founding of the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club. Thordy Kolbinson, a wise Icelander and well-versed in matters of history and legend, has told us his version of the beginnings of the organization in the January, 1976,

Newsletter. It is not for us to judge with finality the accuracy of Thordy's statements, but according to the written word of Petra Reisach, a number of Danish people met at Sutherland Memorial Hall on February 12, 1966, for coffee and conversation. At that time, Henning (Hans) Christensen and "O.K." Erik Christensen spoke in favour of forming a club, its purpose being "to get the Danish people together." An executive body was elected for a period of two months: on it were Ellen and Henning Christensen, "O.K." Erik Christensen, and Petra Riesach. The group was to meet a month later, hopefully with more people in attendance. According to "O.K." Erik, the impetus for founding the club came from Henning Christensen, who after talking over the idea with a number of Danes phoned Erik to ask what he would think of such a project. Erik found the idea appealing, and they began a telephone campaign to get as many Danes as possible to come to the February 12 meeting. There were 21 people in attendance.

On March 12, a folk dance was held at the Hungarian Hall. With "O.K." Erik's encouragement, the decision was then made to begin the formal organization of the club, for which elections were to be held at the next month's meeting. Petra remarks that there were games that night, an especially enjoyable one involving a lemon pie, which Mrs. Pedersen fed to Mr. Larsen, who is said to have been hungry and to have liked the pie very much. There were 31 people there that night.

Elections were held at the April meeting, considered the Annual Meeting of the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club, which has since been held in May. With 36 people present, "O.K." Erik Christensen was elected President, Henning Christensen Vice-President, Ruth Sorensen Second Vice-President, Petra Riesach Secretary, and Karl Riesach Treasurer. A month later, on May 28, what appears to have been the first highly organized gathering, a Danish Smørrebrød was held. With 60 people in attendance, each family brought ten Danish sandwiches, and there were drinks, beer, and—a long-standing tradition in our club—akvavit. The time was spent in eating, drinking,

Continued on Page 9
SASKATOON CLUB

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COME IN AND LOOK

STEPHAN G. STEPHANSSON

By L. K. Johnson

The Icelandic Picnic at Markerville will be held on June 19 and 20. A pancake breakfast will be held on the morning of June 20. Sports, a concert and dancing are all planned.

Birthday congratulations are warmly extended to Joe Johansson who celebrated his 70th birthday on April 4. A very large circle of friends called at his home to express birthday wishes.

The Icelandic Language Course ended on April 7 concluding twelve evenings of study.

Dr. Svenn Thordarson conducted the course. The members of the class expressed their appreciation for Dr. Thordarson's teaching and, also, that they enjoyed the time spent in twelve evenings of study. A gift of luggage was presented to Dr. Thordarson at the conclusion of the class. □

SASKATOON CLUB Continued from Page 8

and making congenial conversation, and Danish songs were part of the evening's entertainment. Petra remarks that some of those in attendance may have had a glass too many, or that perhaps some had brought glasses which were too large.

Peter Elander was at this affair. He had heard of the club through his wife, who in turn had heard an advertisement for it on the radio while ill in the hospital. At this time, plans were made for the first Sankt Hans Fest, for which Peter invited the club to make use of his farm.

Thus it came about, on June 18, that over 100 people gathered at the Elander's farm, their ranks swelled by members' children and by a group of Danes from Moose Jaw, who were studying pilotry there with the Air Force. Perhaps it is with wistful reference to the extended summer twilight of Scandinavia that Petra complains of the evening being too short. The children played at games and watched the burning of the witch, a Danish custom which must have been new to most of them. The people sang Danish folk songs, and there were various refreshments.

The earliest gathering of note the following winter was the first Christmas Party, on December 10. As was formerly the custom with our club—probably because of native Danish tradition—children were entertained in the afternoon, singing Christmas carols as they joined hands around the decorated tree. Karl Riesach annually contributed one of his own trees for this purpose when he was here.

It is said that there were games and a film, and Arnold Madsen, who played the part of Santa Claus, gave each

child a bag of candy and an ice-cream cone. That evening there was a dance, apparently the first with an orchestra, for the 70 or so adults who came. The evening ended with coffee and smørrebrød.

In January of 1968, things took a turn for the worse as a Bingo Night was poorly attended, and it became obvious that the rather specific interests of the club's membership as a whole would have to be considered carefully if participation was to be maintained at a satisfactory level. During this year, dance parties were planned for every other gathering, alternate affairs being made to include such entertainment as Whist Nights and films, in order to see what might produce the best results in attendance and interest. The club held what was called a St. Valentine's Day Party in February, including smørrebrød and orchestra. The Danish-originated Cat of the Barrel Game was played, in which people attempted to break a barrel filled with candies and party hats. A careful historian will notice, too, that Lenten buns were served this night and that later February parties preserved until recently the title Fastelavn—the Scandinavian equivalent of Shrove Tuesday—and are by tradition the responsibility of the Danes, who have always served delicious open-face sandwiches on these occasions.

Meetings and parties continued to be held with varying success dependent on many factors, but the club didn't really find itself until March 2, 1968, when the first supper dance was held, at Leisureland, with 183 people present. While families had previously brought food along, this party was catered, and all agreed that the results were pleasant indeed. Far from least pleased must have been those leading ladies of the club who had earlier done so much to see to the preparation of food for the gatherings, and who would do so again on many occasions in the early years of the club's activities. A factor of prime importance in maintaining the Scandinavian traditions within the club has been the serving of traditional foods. For this, the ladies took full responsibility, and the club is much indebted to them for their service. In addition to the food, there was dancing till the wee hours to the dulcet strains of the Hungarian Band. With this event, the common denominator, entertainment that the greatest number of people could enjoy, had been discovered—the pattern was to be repeated frequently in the future. Other endeavors, such as the Whist

Drives, Bingo Games and the early tradition of a film night—generally held at the January party—seem to have lacked the universal appeal of the supper dance and eventually fell into disuse.

The Sankt Hans Fest held on June 22, 1968, was made more colorful by the appearance of three of the Scandinavian flags, those of Denmark, Norway, and Sweden, the last of which had been made by Mrs. Elander herself. In the absence of authentic midsummer Scandinavian twilight, and of Scandinavia itself, the flags apparently made a vivid impression on the guests. It is said that there were tears in the eyes of some who looked at those symbols of countries they had left.

In May, 1969, the Scandinavian Club adopted its first constitution, prepared by Peter Elander, and according to which membership was to consist of Scandinavians and those of Scandinavian descent who had paid membership fees. The purpose of the club was solely to provide social activities for its members, as much as possible in Scandinavian style. It was to be a non-profit organization, with any surplus funds used to promote only Scandinavian ethnic groups in their work. Early in the same year, the club became affiliated with the Scandinavian Historical Society of Calgary, which at that time was sponsoring a charter flight to Copenhagen in August, 1969.

In January, 1970, the distinctive letterhead for the Scandinavian Club was planned, to be used for the first time on the February Newsletter. Around the same time, Steen Mortensen saw to the making of the stand for the club's flags, purchased by Mrs. Elander in Scandinavia the previous summer.

In May, 1971, at the Annual Meeting, it was suggested that more might be done for the children of club members. However, children were not invited to the 1971 Christmas Party. Instead, they were made welcome at the January gathering, and a Ski-Doo Party was held for entire families at the Elanders' farm in March. Both affairs were a success, and it was decided that children should be invited to future Christmas Parties along with their parents. In the spring of 1971, the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club sponsored a performance by the Danish Gymnastics Team, at the Centennial Auditorium. In order to accomplish this, it was necessary for eighteen of our members to pay \$100 each to guarantee the financial success of the project. It turned out well, and the members received a full refund. The group demonstrated gymnastics and folk dancing, and they were entertained by the club afterwards. In November, what may have been the first



Ross Anderson of Camrose, Alberta, appointed New Area Manager of the Sons of Norway for the Province of Alberta.

of the traditional Icelandic night parties was held. It was during this year, too, that the decision was made to hold the social evenings on the third Saturday of each month.

In the fall of 1972, the Icelandic contingent of the club took responsibility for painting one of the club's treasures, the beautiful picture of the Viking ship. This painting is used at all of our more important events, symbolic of the vigour and colour of the common Scandinavian heritage. September of that year saw the first Harvest Party, held at Merrill School, and the theme of, and responsibility for, other parties that year became more clearly defined. In October, the Norwegians entertained, and in November, again, it was the Icelanders' turn. In January, Danish Fastelavn, in March the men took charge, and in April the Swedes performed. Advertising during the year on radio and in the newspaper resulted in a stabilization of membership.

During the winter of 1973-74, there was talk among some members of the executive about the possibilities of applying for grants to support culturally-oriented activities among members of the society and in particular to purchase books and records for the public library. Nothing materialized from these discussions. Several Danish books were donated to the club at this time by Miss Norgaard, who was given honorary membership as a token of our gratitude. In addition, for the tables at parties new flags were

purchased, and a Viking ship was painted on linen. The pattern of parties remained the same, with the Norwegians, however, now responsible for the January gathering, the October party becoming the Night of Nordic Togetherness.

In 1974-75, the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club participated in the Participation Program. In August, 1974 Professor Howard Nixon attended an executive meeting of the club to outline "Project Sweden", sponsored by Participation. Wolf Kurtz, Hans and Margaret Berin, and Peter and Lill Elander were appointed to assist in plans for the promotion of the project. Wolf Kurtz was particularly active in these matters, even paying a visit to Umeå, Saskatoon's sister city in this experiment in friendly international competition at everyman's level. On May 12, members of the club came together in front of City Hall to walk in the "Gælunka, lðp!" activity, which ended with coffee at the King George.

In August, 1975, Icelandic members of the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club were at Gimli, Manitoba, to help celebrate the founding of the Icelandic settlement there one hundred years ago. At Leo Kristjanson's family compound a float was built for representing the club in the Centennial Parade. Girls dressed in costumes of various Scandinavian nations were on the float. This was one of the more important events in which

Continued on Page 10
SASKATOON CLUB

Wally K. Broen, B.Comm., C.A.

Chartered Accountant

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Kitchen Corner.

KITCHEN HINTS COOKING POULTRY

A bird cooked at low temperature shrinks less, has better textured meat and is more attractive to serve. A high temperature dries out the meat.

Do not cut lettuce with a metal knife as this encourages rotting.

To remove insects that may be present in broccoli, brussel sprouts, cauliflower or cabbage, soak for 15 minutes in brine—1 tablespoon of salt to 5 cups water. Rinse thoroughly.

CHERRY DESSERT

This dessert is so easy to make and so good!

1 cup Graham wafers
1 tablespoon sugar
1/4 cup butter (melted)

Mix.

Save 1/3 crumbs for the top. Pat the remaining crumbs into a pan 8"x8".

Whip 1 cup cream. Add 2 cups marshmallows (miniature).

Spread 1/2 of this mixture over the crust.

Spread 1 can of cherry pie filling over. Put other

half of the cream mixture on. Sprinkle the remaining crumbs on top.

Chill overnight.

SEAFOOD COCKTAIL SAUCE

Mix together:

1/2 cup chili sauce
1/3 tomato sauce (catsup)
1/3 cup prepared horseradish
1 1/2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

SCANDINAVIAN RECIPE

ANCHOVY EGGS

Stuffed eggs are always a good idea at any party where drinks are served. If prepared with care, they can be a very impressive item on the buffet table.

6 hard-boiled eggs
1 tablespoon chopped fresh chives or 1/2 tablespoon dried

2 tablespoons anchovy paste
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Cut the eggs in half, remove yolks and blend with remaining ingredients. Fill each half and, if desired, use capers or rolled anchovies to garnish the top. Makes 12.

twilight, it has created warmth and a friendly environment in which Saskatoon's Nordic settlers can enjoy themselves. □

LAPPS TODAY Continued from Page 6

Lapp Collections (De Samiske Samlinger) in Karasjok, another of Finnmark's typical Lapp towns. Organized as a museum, the Collections gather material, study and teach on Lapp problems through the ages.

A number of textbooks in Lapp have been produced, and more are being prepared. Nevertheless, there is still a shortage of teaching materials in the Lapp language. The Nordic Lapp Institute, established in Kautokeino and financed by Norway, Sweden and Finland, is now working to fill this gap. The Institute works with Lapp language, culture and education, other Lapp activities, and the threat to their way of life, and above all, with the question of preserving the total Lapp environment. □

ICELANDIC FOLKLORE Continued from Page 4

results. Liestøl is talking here of the development of the Icelandic Family Sagas; among the West Icelanders there has been a noticeable shift towards oral traditions with a marked historical, genealogical, biographical or personal character—ghost lore included. These had always been an important part of Icelandic tradition but during the period of settlement in North America they took a decided precedence over the non-realistic, international type of folklore genres, such as fairy tales and ballads.

Tryggvi Oleson, a West Icelandic historian, elaborated on this personal orientation in West Icelandic historiography in an extensive review of th. th. Thorsteinson's three volumes on "The History of Icelanders in the Western Hemisphere". (3) Keeping Liestøl in mind, it bears quoting at some length.

A feature of the work that would strike the non-Icelandic readers is the great amount of space devoted to individuals. Thus in the section on Utah, which covers pages 3-66 of Volume II, pages 8-17 and 23-55 are almost wholly given over to short biographical accounts of the immigrants. This is, however, not at all strange in an Icelandic work for in such a small nation as the Icelandic the individual stands out. Icelanders have always been very interested in genealogy. Even in Canada today when two Icelanders belonging to the older generation meet as strangers the first question usually is—"Hvada manna ert þú?" (Who are your ancestors or family?)—followed by

Hvadan of landinu ert þú?" (From what part of the land (Iceland) do you come?). It is furthermore not uncommon to meet Icelanders who can trace in some detail the family tree of almost any Icelandic one cares to name... Then too it must be remembered that this is the method used in the old Icelandic historical work—Landnámabók (the Book of the Settlement). It is thus a practice hoary with age. An Icelandic would consider any work on the settlements in America which did not teem with biographical sketches of the settlers deficient indeed. The Icelandic had great pride of race and in spite of the fact that he has been assimilated with surprising ease he yet possesses a keen consciousness of his racial extraction and continues to be greatly interested in the lives of his fellow Canadians of Icelandic origin and is very desirous that no achievement of his fellows passes unrecorded. Again the fact that Icelanders are relatively not numerous and for the most part settled in compact groups has meant that they know one another better than is the case with most of the other races of Canada. Indeed very little that happens among them escapes the notice of the weekly press in Winnipeg. They are thus continually, informally and formally, recording their history in great detail. (4)

The Icelanders' major record of their settlement in Iceland, the Landnámabók (Book of the Settlement), (5) and in general the concept of the biographically and genealogically oriented history or saga, were convenient and vital models for the West Icelanders in interpreting their own experiences in the New World. Concern with family and individuals is understandable in a small, closed and island-bound society where events are rarely so momentous as to overshadow personalities.

That the Landnámabók was the model for early West Icelandic history is testified to in a number of passages in the periodical literature of the times. In 1899, for example, O. S. Thorgeirsson in his annual review, Almanak, prefaced the first instalment of his materials on the settlement history of Icelanders in the Western Hemisphere as follows:

It will certainly not have any less significance in the future that there should exist a dependable document concerning the origin of Icelandic settlements in the Western Hemisphere than that in past ages it has had for our nation in Iceland as she in times past acquired her remarkable Landnámabók. (6)

These accounts of people, their place of origin in Iceland, partial genealogy, names and number of children, and location of homestead were published in the Almanak from 1899 until it ceased publication in 1956. The importance of the Almanak and its biographical materials was depicted in 1940 by one observer in the following glowing terms:

When in later times Icelanders began to count it an honour to be able to trace their lineage back to the pioneers in the Western hemisphere, when the luminosity of fame has placed them on par with the Puritans (The Pilgrim Fathers) who first took land in New England, with the Loyalists in Eastern Canada, whom people here consider the greatest pride of their lineages, then the Almanak... will be unhesitatingly perused for reliable accounts of the Icelandic pioneers... (7) □

NOTES

(1) The word "Boundary" is used by Fredrik Barth for his conceptualization of the perseverance of group identity in a poly-ethnic situation. In the "Introduction" to his Ethnic Groups and Boundaries: The Social Organization of Cultural Difference (London, 1969), p. 14, he says:

When defined as an ascriptive and exclusive group, the nature of continuity of ethnic units is clear; it depends on the maintenance of a boundary. The cultural characteristics of the members may likewise be transformed, indeed, even the organization form of the group may change—yet the fact of continuing dichotomization between members and outsiders allows us to specify the nature of continuity, and investigate the changing cultural form and content. Urban, middle class, non-Icelandic speaking third generation West Icelanders rely principally on visual, symbolic boundaries: public display of Viking paraphernalia, private display of Iceland knick-knacks, the wearing of Icelandic knitwear, and ritualistic eating of Icelandic food.

(2) Knut Liestøl, The Origin of the Icelandic Family Sagas (Oslo, 1930), pp 141-142.

(3) th. th. Thorsteinson and Tryggvi Oleson, Saga Íslendinga í Vesturheimi (The History of the Icelanders in the Western Hemisphere) 5 vols. (Reykjavik and Winnipeg, 1940-1953). (The first three volumes were written by the first of the two co-authors; volumes four and five were written by Oleson.)

(4) Tryggvi Oleson, "History of the Icelandic Settlements in America", The Canadian Historical Review, XXVI (December, 1945) (equals review of P. P. Porsteinsson, Saga Íslendinga í Vesturheimi, 3 vols. Winnipeg, 1940-1945).

(5) The last translation of the Landnámabók into English is by Hermann Palsson and Paul Edwards, Book of Settlements—Landnámabók (Winnipeg, 1972).

(6) O. S. Thorgeirsson, "Safu til Landnámssögu Íslendinga í Vesturheimi" (Collection toward the Settlement History of Icelanders in the Western Hemisphere), Almanak, V (1899), 24.

Unless otherwise indicated, translations from Icelandic to English have been made by this author. Verses are translated line by line to retain as much of the original meaning as possible; no attempt has been made to reproduce form.

(7) Grimur Eyfjörð, "Til Landnámssögu Íslendinga í Vesturheimi", Almanak, XXXVI (1940), 81. Other works which carried on this tradition were three volumes compiled by Thorleifur (Jóakimsson) Jackson which dealt exclusively with the New Iceland settlements: Brot af Landnámssögu Nýja Íslands (A Partial History of the Colonization of New Iceland), Winnipeg, 1919; Frá Austri til Vesturs: Framhald af Landnámssögu Nýja Íslands (From East to West: A Continuation of the History of Colonization of New Iceland), Winnipeg, 1921; and, Framhald á Landnámssögu Nýja Íslands (A Continuation of the History of the Colonization of New Iceland), Winnipeg, 1923. In 1926 his daughter, Thorstina Jackson Walters, published a similar work for the settlements in North Dakota, Saga Íslendinga í Nordur-Dakóta (History of the Icelanders in North Dakota), Winnipeg, 1926. Most other works on West Icelandic history are similar. A recent publication of Benjamin Kristjánsson in three volumes, Vestur-Íslenskar Aevískrár (West Icelandic Genealogies), Reykjavik, 1961-1968, a massive, painstakingly researched work is very popular and has sold well on both sides of the Atlantic. One older informant referred to it as "my Bible". Even in homes where there are no other Icelandic books the Aevískrár are pulled off the shelf and opened to the appropriate excerpts where the family lineage is traced and shown to visitors who in turn will then invariably refer to a similar passage concerning their own family.

A small body of important and highly interesting autobiographical accounts of some of the early settlers have been published over the years. They are written by intelli-

SASKATOON CLUB Continued from Page 9

the club has participated, being attended by many natives of Iceland and even by some of its dignitaries, including President Kristjan Eldjarn. Also at Gimli was Iceland's National Glima Team, glima being an ancient form of wrestling which is still practiced in the land of ice and fire. At President Kenneth Paulson's suggestion, the club sponsored a visit to Saskatoon by the Glima Team, which performed at the University of Saskatchewan and was then entertained at the homes of Icelandic members.

For the first time this fall, the Saskatoon Scandinavian Club took part in the International Folk Arts Festival in October. During the week, ladies of the club demonstrated the preparation of various Scandinavian dishes, and on Sunday there was a crafts display, including embroidery, tapestry-weaving, and other domestic industries.

In early November, members of the Swedish contingent of the club enjoyed a lecture on their native folk music. Given by Bengt Hambræus, at present Professor of Musicology at McGill University, it was intended for children as well as adults. Professor

Hambræus, who was in town for other purposes, gave his lecture because of an invitation issued by President Paulson at the suggestion of Wolf Kurtz.

Over the ten years since the club's founding, significant changes in its structure have occurred. Early in its history, the organization, though originally Danish, opened its doors to Scandinavians of other nationalities as well. This was no doubt a fortuitous decision, giving strength in numbers and in cultural diversity. If we consider the early meetings of the Danes in 1966 and their original wish to create an organization which would successfully answer the need for social activities of a Scandinavian bent, we can see that the need is abundantly satisfied in the monthly supper dance parties of the present day. The club is remarkable, too, for its inclusion of children in a number of annual activities. Although the club has never, to our knowledge, served the astrakhan apples for which Moberg's Kristina pined in the wilds of Minnesota, we have sampled its gravlax, skyr, and other delicacies and found them all good. And although the club has not yet been able to reproduce the magic of the Scandinavian midsummer

ICELANDIC FOLKLORE
Continued from Page 10

gent, although formally uneducated men and they offer invaluable insight into the pioneering experience. See Gudbrandur Erlendsson, Markland: Endurminnigar Frá Arunum 1875-1881 (Markland: Remembrances from the years 1875-1881) (Winnipeg, 1916); Sigurdur Ingjaldson, Aevisaga (Biography) 2 vols., (Reykjavik, 1913-1914). These are the two most informative of West Icelandic autobiographical accounts, especially as far as folklore material is concerned. In addition to the above, the West Icelandic newspapers have produced a relentless flow of detailed obituaries and personal histories. The one surviving newspaper, Winnipeg's Lögberg-Heimskringla carries on the tradition to this day.

SKIING IN NORWAY
Continued from Page 3

Norwegians are not famous for being modest when called on to describe their achievements, they have been known to spread it on thick where one thin layer would have been more than adequate, and they are not well known for using understatements.

Norway has had many legendary skiers through the ages, fellows that have been talked about for a long time after they were gone. Nowadays we would probably call them "stunt men". One was "Heming the Young", maybe the greatest of them all; and around the year 1600, we had Dyre Vaa and Per Gynt, the latter one was used by Henrik Ibsen as a model for his famous play, although Ibsen describes him as a braggart and dreamer rather than a skier. In 1941, a movie was made about Trysil-Knut, another legendary skier, with Alfred Maurstad in the title role. I saw the movie, but have forgotten many details—what I do remember is how he kept jumping from rooftops on his skis.

One story goes about a man called Fodnes living close to a hill so steep that it was almost impossible to crawl up even in the summertime. One winter's day, when this hill was covered with ice and snow, somebody bet him five quarts of whiskey that he would be unable to go down that hill on skis without using a pole. Fodnes put his skis on, held a keg of whiskey under one arm, and a glass full of whiskey in the other hand, and when he finally stopped at the bottom of the hill, it was found that he hadn't spilled a drop.

One well-known stunt was to pick up a hat left halfway down a steep hill, and some would take off their jacket and vest under full speed. When they came down to the flats, they did a turn called "hegd". It can be described as a somewhat crippled figure 8. It is said that Dyre Vaa made three of these before he came to a stop, but it should be read with a salt shaker handy.

A woman called Eli was taking a baby to be baptized and she went down the hills on skis. She said afterwards that when she passed a farmhouse farther down, the speed was so great that the house looked to be no bigger than a knife handle, and that

calls for more salt.

Incidentally, later on, after the steam engine was invented and the trains started rolling, scientists were seriously discussing if the human body could stand travelling at speeds exceeding twenty miles an hour. Apparently they hadn't seen the Norwegian skiers in action.

Much could be said about how skis have been developed and improved through the ages. At one time, one long ski for the left foot was used to glide on, the right ski was shorter with fur on the bottom for better grip, and was used by the skier to kick himself forward. But in Telemark, skis were of equal length, and soon became the most popular. Such a thing as grooves down the centre of the sole of the ski for better steering came gradually also, and the same with poles. It can be mentioned that the first cross-country ski race we know about was held at Tromsø in 1843, and the winner used two poles. The man who picked up second prize used one pole; and number three used no pole at all. This makes sense.

Bindings were a great problem. At one time they were made from twisted willows. There is a story about two salesmen who went across the mountains on skis, a trip of about 35 miles. One of them had three spare bindings, so the other guy figured it would be enough for both of them. Halfway across, his binding broke, so he asked for a spare. But by now the price turned out to be \$10.00. He had to pay up, but he wanted all three spares. He got them, but when the other guy's binding broke later on, he had to buy one back for \$20.00. This has something to do with supply and demand.

There has also been a problem with waxes for skis to make them glide better. In the old days, mainly tar was used.

Snowshoe Thompson (his real name was Jon Tors-teinson Rue and came from Tinn in Telemark) has been credited with introducing skiing in California around 1860. But Sondre Nordheim did the most to popularize skiing in the early days around the last century both at home and in America, and he also made improvements on the bindings. There has been some rivalry between Telemark and Trysil—both claimed to be the "cradle" of modern skiing. The world's first ski club was formed in Trysil in 1861, but apparently the men from Telemark did more to create interest in skiing.

The first big ski contest was held at Husebybakken, Oslo, in 1879. There were 10,000 spectators, and the King was one of them. This contest became an annual

event, and was moved to Holmenkollen in 1892. It was during this period that the Arctic explorer Fridtjof Nansen led a party across Greenland on skis. One time he went on skis from Bergen to Oslo to take part in a ski meet. He wrote a book, "Paa ski over Gronland" (Across Greenland on Skis). This book was translated into several languages and did much to make skiing popular. He said: "Skiing is the most national of all Norwegian sports, if any deserves to be called the sport of sports, skiing must be it, it is good for both body and soul to be out in our great outdoors." When Møllergutten (the miller's boy) went to play the Hardanger fiddle with Ole Bull, he travelled from Telemark to Bergen on skis. It is said that he had to stay overnight in the snow-banks twice. Let us hope he didn't have to go on stage with cold hands.

The contests at Holmenkollen, cross-country and jumping have been going on yearly since the start, except for war time and such, and it has probably the most famous ski jump in the world. Many are the stories about Holmenkollen. One is about Elling Rones from Trysil—in 1906 he started out last in the 50-kilometer race, but finally came in first. It must have been a funny feeling, and it seems to prove that the Scriptures are right, it is written: "But many that are first shall be last, and the last shall be first." But this is, maybe, quoting out of context. Anyway, to win the King's Trophy, Kongepokalen, at Holmenkollen has been the dream of many a young skier right from the beginning.

The best known skier I have known personally was Sigurd Roen—he became world champion in the Nordic classic cross-country and jumping combined, in 1937. He belonged to a club called "Troll". Rindal and he used to come to my dances. He came from the same valley as myself, only I lived in the flatter part of it called Surnadal. Folks from Surnadal liked to think they were just as good and maybe better than the inhabitants from Rindal, but we never had a world champion skier. But, as I said, we lived down on the flats and maybe that is the reason why.

Another well known skier I knew was Magnar Fosseide, another Rindaling. I also played for his brother's wedding. The farm was located right on top of a large hill, ideal for skiing, and you could practically start right on the doorstep. People in Edmonton go 250 miles to Jasper to go skiing—if we travelled that far in Norway we would more than likely be in Sweden, and that would have been like going past the creek for water, as they say in Norway.

The years roughly be-

tween World War One and World War Two was Norway's "golden age" in skiing, and we won most international competitions up till about 1930. The Ruud family at Kongsberg included three world champion ski jumpers, and it has been said that Kongsberg could take on the whole world in that branch of the sport at one time. And names like Lauritz Bergendahl, Thorleif Haug, Johan Grottnumsbraaten, Tullin Thams and company are far from forgotten. They were called "Ski Kings" in their day. And I would like to mention Hans Vinjarengen and Arne Rustadstuen, not because they got that far, but they have such nice sounding names.

Our young skiers are doing all right also, but the competition is harder.

I had a friend one time who was a very good ski jumper locally. He kept coming home with first prize. One day he came home from a ski meet and his dad said to him: "Who got second today?" This had been one of my friend's bad days, so he had to say: "I did." Then the father said after a bit of thinking: "I guess we have to blame the new ski boots." In Norway you have to sort of apologize for being second best.

Lots of books and articles about skis and skiing have been written in Norway. A short story called "Amunds new skis" by Hans Aanrud is a real classic. It tells about a boy who has asked God for a pair of skis—there is nothing like going to the top if you want action. But he has to be a good boy, so he lets his sister have some of his licorice, and sure enough, a new pair of skis are standing out in the porch next morning. But in his pride he shows off in front of his friends with the new skis and breaks one right away. Then he goes home and hides the rest of the licorice. He must have decided that if he had no skis he might as well be as miserable as he used to be. You don't have to be a Norwegian to appreciate such a story, but it helps.

Contrary to common belief, Norwegians are not

born with skis on, but through the ages we have been using skis more than most or maybe all other peoples. Many words connected with skiing are Norwegian and have been adopted by other languages.

It seems as if in the early days of ski jumping it was more important to jump high than far, and the ski jump was built at the very bottom of the hill and the skier landed on level ground. The ski jump was built so it was very high in front, so the skier flew heavenward like a rocket and came down with a thud. It was very hard on the bones and equipment, all in all a sport for Vikings.

I went to a ski jumping contest at Lokken Verk in 1946 where most of Norway's top best were competing. But as an onlooker I was rather disappointed—the skiers came down the hill one after another so fast that even with a program in your hand you soon couldn't tell who was who, and there were about 300 of them and they made two jumps each. Very few fell and, to me, it seemed as if they all jumped roughly the same distance. Down on the flats was a fence with the top wire a few inches above the ground, but none of the skiers got tangled up in it—they all noticed it at the very last moment, so they all either jumped over it or else made a sharp Christiania or Telemark turn just before they got to it, and that is the part I remember the best. They say a Christiania turn is done using the inside ski, and the Telemark turn using the outside one.

About the greatest cultural export of Norway inside the last hundred years or so has been skis and how to use them. What started out as the proverbial mustard seed in Morgedal, Telemark, has grown into something big.

VIKING "CRY"
Continued from Page 2

inlet of Scandinavian Fellowship, plus a few other things.

We shall have more about this in the next Newsletter.

Again, the date is July 17th, 1976. MARK YOUR CALENDAR. ONLY 250

Continued on Page 12
VIKING "CRY"

Mr. L. L. Morris
Managing Editor
The Scandinavian Centre News
10203 - 78 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T6A 3E2

I would like to contribute \$..... towards
the operation of the Scandinavian Centre News.

Name Date

Address

Because I do not wish to have my name used in
the paper, kindly use the following pen name:

.....

VIKING "CRY"

Continued from Page 11

tickets will be sold.

The Viking "CRY" has been brought to you by the friendly Olaf the Viking. If you like it, tell Olaf about it, if you didn't, tell Les Greenham. □

LETTER TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF VIKING DISCO

From Douglas Maitland
Viking Disco Disk Jockey

Hi There:

First and foremost I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Board of Directors of the Viking Disco, and wish you luck in the coming year of your term.

The purpose of this letter is to acquaint you with some of the aspects of the Disco of which you may not be aware and also to give you an idea of the scope which your position covers.

When I first went to the Scandinavian Centre's Board of Directors with the idea for the Disco, it was because of selfish reasons. I had been a Disc Jockey in Europe—England and Germany—and had enjoyed it and made money from it. On coming over here I saw a need for entertainment aimed at the under eighteen age group and at the same time a way for me to make money and enjoy myself on a part-time basis. (Once a Ham always a Ham).

But in talking to the Board of Directors something changed. It became clear to me that there was more to it than just entertainment. Without wishing to sound like a crusader, I saw the potential of the Disco to do good.

Having been a teenager myself once (I was you know), I can remember the boredom and sometimes frustration of not having anywhere to go where I could be entertained and meet other people of my own age on a social level. The only alternatives open were either illegal (drugs, alcohol, street gangs, etc.) or boring (scouts, cadets, youth clubs where one had brotherly love, comradeship and "team effort" rammed down ones throat).

That last category had the added disadvantage of making one hyper aware of the fact that one was a "kid", constantly supervised by adults. (Straighten your tie, put out that cigarette, "All right, kids, let's have a sing-song). You know what I mean.

The Viking Disco could provide a means of letting teenagers express themselves as individuals, not as adults or kids, but just as people amongst their peers. One of the major stipulations I made was that there would be no supervision. Guidelines and limitations would be set but total freedom was to be allowed within those limitations, i.e.:

CHARTER NIGHT

VIKING TOASTMASTER CLUB #3650

SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE

DATE: Friday, May 21, 1976

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PRICE: \$7.00 per person

MENU: Scandinavian Delight

All Interested People Most Welcome

TOASTMASTERS STANDS FOR

Better Listening, Thinking and Speaking

FOR TICKETS CALL 484-5384 — 455-4355

No drinking on the premises and no violence. With the exception of the drinking regulation, the Disco duplicates exactly the social environment to be found in any cabaret or lounge in town. A place to meet new people, make new friends, hear (MOSTLY) good music and, most important, introduction to a truly social environment.

This, then, is the work you have been elected to continue. Bear in mind that most of the people who go to the Disco do not see it in that light and, as such, it is often a thankless job, but, believe me, it is worthwhile.

In accepting the directorship, you have accepted the responsibility for maintaining these ideals:

To construct an environment where "Kids" can learn to be people, individuals and, finally, adults. To entertain them during that process and finally to make our Disco known to as many people as possible. The more people we have at the Disco, the more variety there is, the more interest there is. It is important that you do not reject, as potential Disco candidates, people who are social misfits, i.e.: bullies, drunks or people who just are not "nice". These are the people who stand to benefit most from what we have to offer. Let them see what they stand to lose by rejecting society. There are many bullies who have turned into decent human beings when they realize that they could make friends just by being nice or have simply been tamed by a number of the opposite sex. And plenty of "bitches" who have turned into "pussycats" when they found out it was the only way to keep their boy friends, and people who drink too much only do so because they have nothing else to give meaning to their lives.

One important point: Do not ram these principles down anyone's throat, let them find out for themselves, experience is, after all, the best teacher.

Just a couple of more things before I close off, I shall try and make them brief, I do not like writing letters, I'm too lazy:

My position, aside from playing records, is one of arbitrator between the people of the Disco and the

Board of Directors of the Scandinavian Centre, to mediate on your behalf with them and on their behalf with you. Though you may never see them, it is only through them that the Disco came into being in the first place. They financed the stereo and provided the use of the hall at no charge. Many of them have sacrificed their time and energy so that the Disco could function; and we owe them all a debt of gratitude. A debt, you will notice, which they have not even tried to collect. All they ask in return is that we do not do any damage and try not to make the job of cleaning up afterwards too difficult.

Last, but by no means least, is the future of the Disco. Do not make the mistake of forgetting the purpose of satisfying yourself with what we currently are and have.

We have grown from an attendance of 16 to an average of 60-70. There is no reason why we should stop there. The Centre can comfortably hold as many as 400. I have spoken to E.T.S. and they are willing to set up a service from downtown along Stony Plain Road and down 142 Street, if we have sufficient users. There is no need to limit ourselves to West Enders, although I feel sure that there are more than 400 in the West End who would come to the Disco IF ONLY THEY KNEW ABOUT IT!!

Also, do not wait for me to suggest "Greaser Nights", Christmas Dances, Valentine Dances, Beach Dances, Friday Night Discos, etc. Only a teenager knows what a teenager thinks and wants. That is why you are on the Board of Directors and not me. Do you want a light system, a better amp, different music, official membership badges, a better variety of food and drinks, more privileges for members? Ask me, maybe I can see a way of getting something you want that you cannot. If there is something you want to discuss, tell me and we can arrange a meeting at weekends or any evening. You can be assured of my full support and that of the Board of Directors of the Scandinavian Centre. If you cannot contact me, Peter Elander, the Manager of the Centre, is a very approachable man, who, believe it or

BULLETIN BOARD

Scandinavian Centre — 14220 - 125 Ave.

FOR BOOKINGS

Phone The Manager
Peter Elander

Office 455-4355
Res. 452-3907

ANSGAR DANISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9554 - 108A Avenue, Phone 467-3492 or 422-8777

Pastor Holger N. Madsen

MAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

May 2, 16, 30 — 11:00 a.m. - Danish

May 9 — 11:00 a.m. - English

May 23 - English Confirmation Services at 10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Scandinavian Centre

5th Annual

MOTHER'S DAY SMORGASBORD

Sunday, May 9th, 1976 at

Scandinavian Centre
14220 - 125 Avenue

DINNER SERVED FROM

2:00 - 4:00 and 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Adults \$7.00 per person
Children (12 years and under) \$2.25 each

TICKETS BY RESERVATION AVAILABLE FROM

Scandinavian Centre — 455-4355

Vera Nielsen — 454-5438

Les Greenham — after 5:00 p.m. 455-0082

SONS OF NORWAY

SYTTENDE MAI SUPPER AND DANCE

Scandinavian Centre

Friday, May 14, 1976

SOCIAL HOUR — 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

SUPPER — 7:00 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT & DANCE TO FOLLOW

TICKETS ARE \$10.00 per adult
\$6.00 for Junior Lodge Members
and Children 12 years and under

FOR TICKETS PHONE

Gladys Clark — 455-5371

Doug Peterson — 466-9061

not, is just as much on your side as I am.

Once again, my congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Yours tiredly,
Doug Maitland □

APPOINTMENT

Continued from Page 1

level. He was the charter president of the Camrose lodge when it was organized by Sigurd Sorenson some six years ago and has served as its sports director during

the past two and one-half years. In addition to promoting sports programs in his local lodge, he has also actively promoted sporting meets with other lodges throughout the province.

In 1974 he served on the Banff Convention Committee, which hosted the Society's biennial national convention. For the past ten years, Mr. Anderson has been on the sales staff of the Alberta Motor Association working in central Alberta. □